

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminarily to the issuance of an Office Action in the above identified application.

With the present Amendment applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to more clearly define the present invention.

In particular it is stated that in claims 1 and 10 that all of the comparator elements 14 are connected to a common pull up resistor range in the U+- branch. By means of the transistors 17 it can be selected, which of the respective comparator elements 14 is to be compared to the reference voltage U+.

The patent to Schwarz applied by the Examiner provides the comparison which requires capacitors 65 and a plurality of resistors 54 being connected to a common point m. In contrast, with the construction defined now in claims 1 and 10 the "Wired OR-circuit" is provided, thus allowing for an advantageous comparison of voltages in phase branches without the requirement of the capacitors and resistors connected to a common point m as in the Schwarz reference.


The patent to Kokami discloses a back electromotive force voltage induced by the windings of the electric motor. This reference does not show a "Wire OR-circuit" according to the present invention.

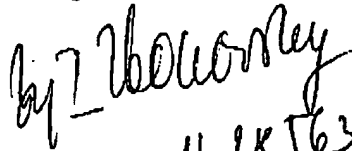
It is believed that the present invention as now defined in claims 1 and 10 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233


J. H. Bouwmeester

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 17 2003

OFFICIAL